

## **COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR: 1 OCTOBER 2025**

### **Notice of Motion**

#### **Proposed by Cllr Gordon Murray, seconded by Cllr Rae Mackenzie**

The Comhairle nan Eilean Siar recognises the unprecedented opportunity presented by windfarm developments to deliver transformative economic, social, and environmental benefits to communities across the Highlands and Islands. With windfarm developments projected to generate significant revenues, estimated at a minimum of £250,000 per megawatt annually, there exists a critical need to ensure that these benefits are equitably shared with local communities to address challenges such as fuel poverty, depopulation, and the need for sustainable economic development.

To this end, the Comhairle agrees:

- To call for a summit of Chief Officers and Leaders from each local authority in the Highlands and Islands, including Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Highland Council, Orkney Islands Council, Shetland Islands Council, and Argyll and Bute Council, to meet and agree on a unified framework for fair and just levels of community benefit from windfarm developments.
- To advocate for a standardized approach to community benefit agreements that ensures a minimum proportion of windfarm revenues is reinvested directly into affected communities, reflecting the scale of development and its local impact.
- To mandate the Comhairle's Chief Executive to work with counterparts in other local authorities to draft a memorandum of understanding, to be signed by all parties, committing to transparent, equitable, and locally tailored community benefit packages.
- To ensure that community benefit funds prioritize long-term legacy projects, including but not limited to affordable housing, renewable energy access for households, education and skills development, and infrastructure improvements, to combat depopulation and enhance quality of life.
- To engage with community organizations, such as Community Energy Scotland and local land trusts, to ensure that community voices shape the allocation of these funds.

The Comhairle further resolves to communicate this motion to the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, and relevant renewable energy stakeholders, urging their support for a collaborative approach to maximizing community benefits from windfarm developments across the region.